Comprehensive Timeline

I. The Enlightenment & Foundations (1588 – 1790s)

- **1588–1679:** Lifetime of **Thomas Hobbes**, the "father of modern political thought" and author of *Leviathan*.
- **1690: John Locke** publishes *Two Treatises on Government*, defining natural rights (life, liberty, property).
- **1748: Baron de Montesquieu** publishes *The Spirit of the Laws*, introducing the separation of powers.
- **1762: Jean-Jacques Rousseau** publishes *The Social Contract*, arguing for the "general will."
- **1764: Cesare Beccaria** publishes *On Crimes and Punishments*, advocating for the rights of the accused.
- **1776: Adam Smith** publishes *The Wealth of Nations*, codifying the system of **Capitalism**.
- **Late 18th Century:** The Enlightenment (or **Age of Reason**) peaks, emphasizing logic and rationality over religious tradition.

II. The Age of Revolutions (1754 – 1890s)

- **1754–1763:** The **Seven Years War** (French and Indian War), the world's first global conflict, which left Britain in debt.
- **1763:** The **Proclamation of 1763** forbids American colonists from settling west of the Appalachian Mountains.
- **1775:** The American Revolution begins (Battle of Bunker Hill/Lexington & Concord).
- **1776:** The **Declaration of Independence** is signed, using Locke’s Enlightenment ideals.
- **1783:** The **Treaty of Paris** confirms U.S. independence.
- **1789:** The **French Revolution** begins with the storming of the Bastille and the National Assembly.
- **1792:** The **Haitian Revolution** begins (led by Toussaint Louverture); the **Reign of Terror** begins in France.

- **1799: Napoleon Bonaparte** topples the French Directory in a *coup d'état*.
- **1804:** Napoleon crowns himself Emperor; the Haitian white massacres occur.
- **1815:** Napoleon's final defeat at the **Battle of Waterloo**; the **Congress of Vienna** meets to restore the balance of power.
- **1819–1830: Latin American Revolutions** led by Simon Bolivar and Jose de San Martin liberate South America from Spain.
- **1839–1876:** The **Tanzimat Reforms** in the Ottoman Empire attempt to modernize and create a unified national identity.

III. The Industrial Revolution & Imperialism (1750 – 1914)

- **1750–1850:** The **First Industrial Revolution** (Steam, Coal, Textiles in Britain).
- **1764:** James Hargreaves invents the **Spinning Jenny**.
- **1775:** James Watt perfects the **Steam Engine**.
- **1861:** Tsar Alexander II **emancipates the serfs** in Russia to catch up with Western industrialization.
- **1870–1914:** The **Second Industrial Revolution** (Electricity, Petroleum, Steel in Germany/USA).
- **1839–1842:** The **First Opium War**; Britain forces China to open trade ports.
- **1853: Commodore Matthew Perry** (USA) arrives to force Japan to open its markets.
- **1857:** The **Sepoy Mutiny** in India leads to direct British rule (**The British Raj**).
- **1868:** The **Meiji Restoration** begins Japan's rapid industrialization.
- **1884:** The **Berlin Conference**; European powers divide Africa for raw materials.
- **1884:** The **Chinese Exclusion Act** (USA) reflects growing "Nativism."

- **1894–1895: First Sino-Japanese War**; modern Japan defeats the Qing Dynasty.
- **1898: Spanish-American War**; U.S. gains Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Philippines.

IV. Global Conflict & The Cold War (1914 – 1991)

- **1914:** Assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand; **World War I begins**.
- **1917:** The **Russian Revolution**; Bolsheviks (led by Lenin) take power and Russia withdraws from WWI.
- **1918: Armistice** ends WWI fighting; Spanish Flu pandemic kills 40 million.
- **1919:** The **Treaty of Versailles** is signed, punishing Germany.
- **1929: Black Tuesday** (Stock Market Crash) triggers the **Great Depression**.
- **1933: Adolf Hitler** and the Nazi Party take control of Germany.
- **1937:** Japan invades China (Rape of Nanjing).
- **1939:** Germany invades Poland; **World War II begins**.
- **1941:** Attack on **Pearl Harbor**; U.S. enters the war.
- **1942:** Turning points at the **Battle of Midway** (Pacific) and **Stalingrad** (Europe).
- **1944: D-Day** invasion of Normandy.
- **1945:** Germany surrenders (V-E Day); U.S. drops **Atomic Bombs** on Hiroshima and Nagasaki; WWII ends.
- **1947–1991:** The **Cold War**; indirect conflict between the U.S. (Capitalism) and USSR (Communism).
- **1947: Partition of India**; independence of India and Pakistan.
- **1948:** Establishment of the **State of Israel**; UN passes the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights**.
- **1949: Communist Party** (Mao Zedong) takes control of China.
- **1955–1975:** The **Vietnam War**.

- **1968:** Global **Counter-Culture protests** and the Prague Spring.

V. The Modern World (1980s – Present)

- **1989: Tiananmen Square Massacre** in China; military crackdowns on democratic protests.
- **1991: Collapse of the Soviet Union**; end of the Cold War.
- **1993:** The **European Union** (EU) is formally formed.
- **1994:** The **World Trade Organization** (WTO) and **NAFTA** are established, fueling **Globalization**.